

poplar, usually pollarded trees, and to a less extent common elm. On Dartford Heath, however, small oak trees are particularly favoured, and less frequently birch is selected, although the roadside limes are also utilized. Elsewhere in the countryside of N.W. Kent, in addition to the trees mentioned, relatively more use is made of hazel, willow and aspen. At Dungeness and Romney Marsh willow and willow appear to be most commonly used. In *The Butterflies and Moths of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight* by B. Goater, young birches and willows are especially noted as the larval foodplant, and this is in accord with my observations for Dartford Heath with reference to both the oak and birch.

It would be interesting to know if there are localities where *bucephala* shows a distinct preference for trees of a different kind from those mentioned above. — B. K. WEST, 36 Brair Road, Bexley, Kent.

PIERIS CHEIRANTHI HBN. IN TENERIFE. — I was interested to read the comments of Messrs. Allcard and Valletta on the occurrence of *Pieris cheiranthi* in the Western Canary Islands last autumn (see *Ent. Rec.*, 94: 112 *et seq.*).

My wife and I and our family spent some weeks in Tenerife in January and February this year. We were actually staying in the south of the island where butterflies are few, but on an excursion by hired car to the north, I saw this butterfly in Puerto de la Cruz and elsewhere in that vicinity, and found a batch of eggs on *Nasturtium* (*Tropaeolum majus*) outside Los Realejos. I saw no larvae or pupae, and I wonder if in spite of the more or less permanent summer climate this species has fixed periods when it flies.

Coincidentally, when I was there I found myself wondering about this species' foodplants. Clearly, *Nasturtium* is what is favoured now, although edible Brassicas are widely grown and presumably also used, but I have noticed that in this part of Scotland, *P. brassicae* is found much more frequently on *Nasturtium* now, whereas formerly it was to be found on Cabbages etc. Could this be natural selection? After all it is much less likely to be presecuted on *Nasturtium* than on plants cultivated for eating.

However, reverting to *P. cheiranthi*, the point is that presumably the cultivated Brassicas arrived with the first humans, and *Nasturtium*, being of South American origin must have come much later. Therefore, unless this species has evolved since the first human settlement, which seems impossible, there must be a native Brassica. Has this ever been investigated? — R. I. V. ELLIOTT, Burnbank, Saline, Fife, 25.vi.1982.

ON THE HOSTPLANT OF CHRYSOLINA POLITA (LINNAEUS) (COL.: CHRYSOMELIDAE). — I read with interest the note by Mr. J. Robbins in *Entomologist's Record J. Var.*, (1981), 93(2):27 concerning the foodplant of *Chrysolina polita* (Linnaeus). In my rather short experience of this species in West Cumbria I have also found the beetle (adults only) in association with *Lycopus europaeus* L. (Gipsywort). Several specimens were swept from some large stands of this plant growing in a damp and shady situation near to common willow trees, *Salix cinerea* L. on the edge of an old decaying willow carr